

## OPINION 1830

### CAECILIIDAE Kolbe, 1880 (Insecta, Psocoptera): spelling emended to CAECILIUSIDAE, so removing the homonymy with CAECILIIDAE Rafinesque, 1814 (Amphibia, Gymnophiona)

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Insecta; Psocoptera; Amphibia; Gymnophiona; CAECILIAIDAE; CAECILIIDAE; CAECILIUSIDAE; *Caecilia*; *Caecilius*.

#### Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers:
  - (a) paragraphs (1), (4) and (5) of the ruling in Opinion 1462 are hereby revoked;
  - (b) it is hereby ruled that for the purposes of Article 29 of the Code the stem of the generic name *Caecilius* Curtis, 1837 (Insecta) is CAECILIUS-
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
  - (a) CAECILIIDAE Rafinesque, 1814, type genus *Caecilia* Linnaeus, 1758 (Amphibia);
  - (b) CAECILIUSIDAE Kolbe, 1880, type genus *Caecilius* Curtis, 1837 (spelling emended by the ruling in (1)(b) above) (Insecta).
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology:
  - (a) CAECILIIDAE Kolbe, 1880 (an incorrect original spelling of CAECILIUSIDAE) (Insecta);
  - (b) CAECILIAIDAE Rafinesque, 1814 (an emended spelling of CAECILIIDAE, adopted and placed on the Official List in Opinion 1462 but now deleted) (Amphibia);
  - (c) CECILINIA Rafinesque, 1814 (an incorrect original spelling of CAECILIIDAE) (Amphibia).

#### History of Case 2936

An application to remove the homonymy between the family-group names based on *Caecilia* Linnaeus, 1758 (Amphibia) and *Caecilius* Curtis, 1837 (Insecta) by emending the spelling of the insect family-group name to CAECILIUSIDAE, so revoking that part of Opinion 1462 (December 1987) dealing with family-group names, was received from Prof M.H. Wake (*University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*), Prof A. Dubois (*Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France*), Dr D.R. Frost (*American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.*) and Drs T.E. Moore & R.A. Nussbaum (*Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.*) on 14 November 1990. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 51: 237–239 (September 1994). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment in 'tentative support' from Dr Mark Wilkinson (*University of Bristol, Bristol, U.K.*) was received during the voting period.

It was noted on the voting paper that, as pointed out in the application, all the arguments put forward when this case of homonymy was considered in 1980–1987

were in favour of retaining the earlier and important amphibian homonym CAECILIIDAE and emending the psocopteran family name based on *Caecilius*. The only objection that had been raised to the name CAECILIUSIDAE was that it was not euphonious.

The generic names *Caecilia* Linnaeus, 1758 and *Caecilius* Curtis, 1837, and the valid names of their type species, *Caecilia tentaculata* Linnaeus, 1758 and *Psocus fuscopterus* Latreille, 1799 respectively, were placed on Official Lists in Opinion 1462 (December 1987).

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1995 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 51: 237–239. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1995 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 21: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Trjapitzin

Negative votes — 3: Dupuis, Holthuis and Kabata.

Lehtinen abstained.

No votes were received from Ride and Uéno.

Lehtinen commented: 'This homonymy problem was only recently voted on. If changes to Opinion 1462 (1987) really are necessary they are best discussed when enough information on the drawbacks of the decision is available. The new application seems to me to be argued mainly on personal grounds and sentiments'.

Štys commented: 'After long hesitation I vote for the proposal. It should be made clear that the previous Opinion was based on a proposal which did not serve best the stability of nomenclature, and that the Commission is now correcting its own previous wrong judgement. The psocopteran genus *Caecilius* Curtis, 1837 is described as 'relatively obscure' in para. 7(a) of the application. This is only because the derived family-group name is less well known in comparison with the amphibian name. However, the psocopteran group up to now known as CAECILIIDAE is cited in comprehensive treatments of the Psocoptera, is well known to all systematic entomologists, and is characterized and/or listed in all textbooks and similar comprehensive treatises on systematic entomology. We have to take into account frequency of usage of names but we must treat taxa as equal'.

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

CAECILIAIDAE Rafinesque, 1814, *Specchio delle scienze o Giornale Enciclopedico di Sicilia*, 2: 104 (an emended spelling of CAECILIIDAE deleted from the Official List and placed on the Index in this Opinion).

CAECILIIDAE Kolbe, 1880, *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung*, 41: 183 (an incorrect original spelling of CAECILIUSIDAE).

CAECILIIDAE Rafinesque, 1814, *Specchio delle scienze o Giornale Enciclopedico di Sicilia*, 2: 104.

CAECILIUSIDAE Kolbe, 1880, *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung*, 41: 183 (incorrectly spelled as CAECILIIDAE).

CECILINIA Rafinesque, 1814, *Specchio delle scienze o Giornale Enciclopedico di Sicilia*, 2: 104 (an incorrect original spelling of CAECILIIDAE).